

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NAIROB 00786 170831Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W
-----028270 170841Z /13

R 170646Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4255
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 0786

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, KE
SUBJECT: OGINGA ODINGA FACTION ACCUSED OF DEVELOPING PLAN TO PUSH
LUO POLITICAL CANDIDATES

REF: A) 77 NAIROBI 16435; B) 77 NAIROBI 16378

1. SUMMARY: POLITICAL ADVERSARIES OF EX-VICE PRESIDENT
JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA HAVE INTENSIFIED EFFORTS TO DISCREDIT
HIM AND HIS ASSOCIATES AND PERHAPS, TO PROVOKE HIM INTO A
REACTION WHICH WILL LEAD TO HIS DETENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ON HEELS OF ODINGA'S BRIEF ARREST LAST MONTH
IN NAIROBI (SEE REFTELS), ANTI-ODINGA POLITICIANS HAVE
UNLEASHED HEATED PRESS CAMPAIGN ALLEGING THAT WITH ODINGA'S
LEADERSHIP GROUP OF LUO'S UNDER AUSPICES OF LUO TRIBAL
WELFARE ASSOCIATION (LUO UNION) HAVE BEEN MEETING SECRETLY
TO PLAN STRATEGY FOR MUNICIPAL AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS DUE TO
TAKE PLACE IN LATE 1978 AND 1979 RESPECTIVELY. PRESS
REPORTS EMANATING FROM "INFORMED SOURCES" SUGGEST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NAIROB 00786 170831Z

THAT GROUP HAS ESTABLISHED GOAL OF COLLECTING 20 MILLION
SHILLINGS TO BE USED IN GENERAL SUPPORT OF LUO CANDIDATES
THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, AND SPECIFICALLY TO UNSEAT LUO MP'S
AND OTHERS WHO HAVE OPPOSED ODINGA'S COMEBACK PLANS.
DOCUMENT PURPORTING TO BE MINUTES OF ONE OF MEETINGS CHAIRED
BY ODINGA, QUOTES ODINGA AS STATING THAT GROUP WILL GET
AID FROM SOME COUNTRIES AND SOME BIG COMPANIES. ANOTHER

PRESS ACCOUNT HAS IT THAT GROUP OF ODINGA SUPPORTERS HAVE ALREADY TRAVELLED TO ANGOLA TO ARRANGE FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

3. ODINGA HIMSELF AND HIS KEY SUPPORTERS DENY THAT ANY SUCH MEETINGS EVER TOOK PLACE OR THAT ANY PLAN TO SUPPORT SYSTEMATICALLY LUO CANDIDATES IN NEXT ELECTIONS EXISTS. THEY INSIST PRESENT PRESS CAMPAIGN IS PART OF EFFORT TO DIVIDE LUOS, DISCREDIT ODINGA, AND THEREBY RENDER LUOS POLITICALLY IMPOTENT. PROMINENT LUOS SUCH AS PAUL MBOYA, CHAIRMAN OF LUO UNION, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF MP'S SYMPATHETIC TO ODINGA, HAVE DENOUNCED PRESS REPORTS AS FICTITIOUS, AND HAVE CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE PRESS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCE RESULTS. PRIVATELY, THESE LUOS ARE SAYING THAT VILIFICATION EFFORT IS WORK OF POLITICAL OPERATIVES WORKING FOR VP MOI AND ATTORNEY GENERAL NJONJO. THESE MEN HAVE BEEN PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR BLOCKING ODINGA'S POLITICAL REEMERGENCE OVER PAST TWO YEARS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE ON SURFACE IT APPEARS HARDLY NEWSWORTHY OR SURPRISING THAT LUOS OR ANY OTHER INTEREST GROUP IN KENYA MIGHT MEET TO DISCUSS FUND RAISING AND TO IDENTIFY CANDIDATES TO BE SUPPORTED IN NEXT ELECTIONS, PECULIARITIES OF KENYAN POLITICAL SITUATION WOULD IMBUE SUCH MEETINGS WITH CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE. DESPITE FACT THAT TRIBALISM REMAINS A MAJOR FACTOR LURKING BENEATH SURFACE IN THIS COUNTRY, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NAIROB 00786 170831Z

DISCOURAGED OFFICIALLY. CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE CAMPAIGN AS INDIVIDUAL KENYANS, NOT AS KIKUYUS, LUOS OR KAMBAS, ETC. KENYANS, IN GENERAL, RECOGNIZE DANGER OF PERMITTING POLITICAL COMPETITION TO DEGENERATE INTO CONFLICT ALONG TRIBAL LINES. PURPOSE OF CURRENT PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST ODINGA AND HIS ASSOCIATES APPEARS TO BE TO CREATE PUBLIC IMPRESSION THAT THESE MEN ARE ENDANGERING NATIONAL UNITY AND STABILITY BY FOMENTING TRIBALISM. FURTHERMORE, ALLEGATION THAT ODINGA MADE REFERENCE TO TAPPING FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT RECALLS CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO BANNING OF KENYA PEOPLE'S UNION AND TO HIS (ODINGA'S) ARREST IN 1969, AND PROPOGATES INSINUATION THAT ODINGA REMAINS UNDER INFLUENCE OF FOREIGN (COMMUNIST) COUNTRIES.

5. CLEARLY, FROM ODINGA'S VANTAGE POINT, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THESE PRESS REPORTS BE DEBUNKED. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, ODINGA'S MEN ARE FEARFUL THAT OVERREACTION WILL PLAY INTO ADVERSARIES' HANDS BY CREATING KIND OF PUBLIC POLITICAL DISSENSION WHICH COULD SERVE AS PRETEXT TO ARREST ODINGA AGAIN.

LE MELLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NAIROB00786
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780024-0607
Format: TEL
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780155/aaaabuks.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: becdcf2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NAIROBI 16435, 77 NAIROBI 16378
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3763024
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OGINGA ODINGA FACTION ACCUSED OF DEVELOPING PLAN TO PUSH LUO POLITICAL CANDIDATES
TAGS: PINT, KE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/becdcf2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014